

THE CLAIMS

As amended, the claims of the application are:

1. (Currently Amended) A communication system comprising means having a surface and defining a communication region having associated therewith a plurality of symbols and being responsive to movement of a user-controlled pointing device on or proximate said surface, whereby a desired symbol can be selected by detecting movement of the pointing device within the communication region along a predetermined bearing, the predetermined bearing being parallel to a direction of the desired symbol relative to a central region of the communication region ~~within a tolerance determined by the angular separation of adjacent symbols~~, said system being responsive to said user-controlled pointing device independent of the location within said communication region at which movement along said predetermined bearing commences.

2. (Withdrawn) A communication system as claimed in claim 1, wherein there is a plurality of cells within a single communication region, each cell having associated therewith a plurality of symbols arranged in a linear manner, a desired symbol being selected by movement along the predetermined bearing to select a respective cell followed by further radial or circumferential movement to select the desired symbol associated with the respective cell.

3. (Previously Presented) A communication system as claimed in claim 1, wherein a plurality of symbol entry regions are provided each having associated therewith a plurality of symbols and each being responsive to the user-controlled pointing device whereby a desired symbol can be selected by movement of the point-

ing device within the communication region with which the desired symbol is associated, along the predetermined bearing.

4. (Withdrawn) A communication system as claimed in claim 3, wherein there are eight communication regions, each region having associated therewith four symbols arranged in an orthogonal manner, a desired symbol being selected by movement within the region having the desired symbol associated therewith along the predetermined bearing relative to the desired region.

5. (Withdrawn) A communication system as claimed in claim 3, wherein there are five communication regions, each region having associated therewith a plurality of symbols arranged in a predetermined manner, a desired symbol being selected by movement within the region having the desired symbol associated therewith along the predetermined bearing relative to the desired symbol.

6. (Previously Presented) A communication system as claimed in claim 3, wherein there are four communication regions, each region having associated therewith a plurality of symbols arranged in a predetermined manner, a desired symbol being selected by movement within the region having the desired symbol associated therewith along the predetermined bearing relative to the desired symbol.

7. (Previously Presented) A communication system as claimed in claim 3, wherein there are three communication regions, each region having associated therewith a plurality of symbols arranged in a predetermined manner, a desired symbol being selected by movement within the region having the desired symbol associated therewith along the predetermined bearing relative to the desired symbol.

8. (Previously Presented) A communication system as claimed in claim 3, wherein there are two communication regions, each region having associated therewith a plurality of symbols arranged in a predetermined manner, a desired symbol being selected by movement within the region having the desired symbol associated therewith along the predetermined bearing relative to the desired symbol.

9. (Previously Presented) A communication system as claimed in claim 1, wherein two sets of communication regions are provided.

10. (Withdrawn) A communication system as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least one further region is provided separated from the first-mentioned regions for toggling between the first-mentioned set of symbols and one or more further sets of symbols to be associated with each of the regions.

11. (Previously Presented) A communication system as claimed in claim 1, wherein means is provided for selecting a further symbol arranged within an area encompassed by or adjacent to the first-mentioned symbols of each region by tapping the area within the desired region.

12. (Previously Presented) A communication system as claimed in claim 1, wherein means is provided for selecting further symbols by employing a different form of movement from that required to select from the basic symbols.

13. (Previously Presented) A communication system as claimed in claim 12, wherein the further symbols are selected on the basis of the speed of movement of the pointing device.

14. (Previously Presented) A communication system as claimed in claim 12, wherein the further symbols are selected on the basis of a combination of movements.

15. (Withdrawn) A communication system as claimed in claim 14, wherein the combination of movements comprise a curvilinear movement.

16. (Previously Presented) A communication system as claimed in claim 14, wherein the combination of movements comprise a linear movement with a dwell at the beginning and/or end thereof.

17. (Previously Presented) A communication system as claimed in claim 14, wherein the combination of movements comprise a linear movement in a first direction followed by a further linear movement reversing the preceding movement.

18. (Previously Presented) A communication system as claimed in claim 14, wherein the combination of movements comprise two sequential linear movements at a predetermined angle to each other.

19. (Currently Amended) A communication system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said means having a surface and defining a communication region comprises ~~the region or regions are provided on a touch-sensitive pad or screen.~~

20. (Currently Amended) A method of communication in which a plurality of symbols are associated with a communication region and a desired symbol is selected by detecting movement of a user-controlled pointing device on or proximate a surface within the communication region along a predetermined bearing, the predetermined bearing being parallel to a direction of the desired symbol relative to a central region

of the communication region ~~within a tolerance determined by the angular separation of adjacent symbols~~, effecting of said selection being independent of the location within said communication region at which movement of the pointing device along said predetermined bearing commences.

21. (Withdrawn) A method of communication according to claim 20, wherein there is a plurality of cells within a single communication region, each cell having associated therewith a plurality of symbols arranged in a linear manner, a desired symbol being selected by movement along the predetermined bearing to select a respective cell followed by further radial or circumferential movement to select the desired symbol or the like associated with the respective cell.

22. (Previously Presented) A method of communication according to claim 20, wherein a plurality of symbol entry regions are provided each having associated therewith a plurality of symbols and each being responsive to the user-controlled pointing device whereby a desired symbol can be selected by movement of the pointing device within the communication region with which the desired symbol is associated, along the predetermined bearing.

23. (Withdrawn) A method of communication according to claim 22, wherein there are eight communication regions, each having associated therewith four symbols arranged in an orthogonal manner, a desired symbol being selected by movement within the region having the desired symbol associated therewith along the predetermined bearing relative to the desired region.

24. (Withdrawn) A method of communication according to claim 22, wherein there are five communication regions, each region having associated therewith a

plurality of symbols arranged in a predetermined manner, a desired symbol being selected by movement within the region having the desired symbol associated therewith along the predetermined bearing relative to the desired symbol.

25. (Previously Presented) A method of communication according to claim 22, wherein there are four communication regions, each region having associated therewith a plurality of symbols arranged in a predetermined manner, a desired symbol being selected by movement within the region having the desired symbol associated therewith along the predetermined bearing relative to the desired symbol.

26. (Previously Presented) A method of communication according to claim 22, wherein there are three communication regions, each region having associated therewith a plurality of symbols arranged in a predetermined manner, a desired symbol being selected by movement within the region having the desired symbol associated therewith along the predetermined bearing relative to the desired symbol.

27. (Previously Presented) A method of communication according to claim 22, wherein there are two communication regions, each region having associated therewith a plurality of symbols arranged in a predetermined manner, a desired symbol being selected by movement within the region having the desired symbol associated therewith along the predetermined bearing relative to the desired symbol.

28. (Previously Presented) A method of communication according to claim 20, wherein two sets of communication regions are provided.

29. (Previously Presented) A method of communication according to claim 20, wherein at least one further region is provided separated from the first-mentioned re-

gions for toggling between the first-mentioned set of symbols and one or more further sets of symbols to be associated with each of the regions.

30. (Previously Presented) A method of communication according to claim 20, wherein means is provided for selecting a further symbol arranged within an area encompassed by or adjacent to the first-mentioned symbols of each region by tapping the area within the desired region.

31. (Previously Presented) A method of communication according to claim 20, wherein further symbols are selectable by employing a different form of movement from that required to select from the basic symbols.

32. (Previously Presented) A method of communication according to claim 31, wherein the further symbols may be selected on the basis of the speed of movement of the pointing device.

33. (Previously Presented) A method of communication according to claim 31, wherein the further symbols may be selected on the basis of a combination of movements.

34. (Withdrawn) A method of communication according to claim 33, wherein the combination of movements comprise a curvilinear movement.

35. (Previously Presented) A method of communication according to claim 33, wherein the combination of movements comprise a linear movement with a dwell at the beginning and/or end thereof.

36. (Previously Presented) A method of communication according to claim 33, wherein the combination of movements comprise a linear movement in a first direction followed by a further linear movement reversing the preceding movement.

37. (Previously Presented) A method of communication according to claim 33, wherein the combination of movements comprise two sequential linear movements at a predetermined angle to each other.

38. (Currently Amended) A method of communication according to claim 20, wherein the region or regions are provided on a touch-sensitive ~~pad or~~ screen.

39. (New) A communication system comprising means having a surface and defining a plurality of communication regions each substantially in the form of a square having symbols associated therewith substantially at corners of the square and substantially midway along each side of the square, each communication region being responsive to movement of a user-controlled pointing device on or proximate the surface of the means having a surface and defining a plurality of communication regions, whereby a desired symbol can be selected by detecting movement of the pointing device on or proximate the surface within said each communication region along a predetermined bearing, the predetermined bearing being parallel to a direction of the desired symbol relative to a central region of said each communication region, said system being responsive to said user-controlled pointing device independent of the location within said each communication region at which movement along said predetermined bearing commences.

40. (New) A communication system as claimed in claim 39 and including a visual output corresponding to the symbol or symbols entered.